



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/648,426 Confirmation No. : 3993
First Named Inventor : Tadahiro ISHIZAKA, *et al.*
Filed : August 27, 2003
TC/A.U. : 1763
Examiner : Karla A. Moore

Docket No. : 010986.52734US
Customer No. : 23911

Title : Processing Apparatus Having a Support Member
Made of Metal Matrix Composite Between a Process
Chamber and a Placement Stage

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted concurrently with a Request
for Continued Examination.

The following requested amendments and remarks are respectfully
submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 19, 2006. The three-
month response due date is January 19, 2007.

Amendments to the Claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.